THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) It is true that mangroves have contributed towards mitigation of the adverse impact of cyclones tidal waves & sea water surges along some coastal areas of Orissa & other parts of the country and towards enhancement of fisheries. However, not all coastal areas are suitable for mangrove Plantation as the mangroves require an appropriate mix of saline & fresh water, and soft substrate like mud flats to be able to grow, & sustain. Besides, the extent of protection afforded by Mangroves is determined by the intensity of tidal wave, and density & expanse of mangrove plantation.

(b) The Government has encouraged mangrove plantations along Orrisa's coastal areas and from 2000-01 till now, mangrove plantations have been raised, with central assistance, in an area covering 1260 hectares in the coastal areas of Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Balasore, Bhadrak & Puri. During the current financial year, 1095 hectares of mangrove plantation are planned by the State Government. The State Government is also seeking external assistance for enhancing of area under mangrove plantation.

Chloride in Yamuna

†3714. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chloride content in the Yamuna water has been found to be high due to which it is being considered very hazardous to health;

(b) if so, the reasons for increase in chloride contents and the extent to which the same has increased;

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government ensure that the untreated waste from factories is not released into rivers; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to provide clean and hygienic drinking water to the people?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) As reported by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the chloride content in the water of river Yamuna has been observed to be generally within the permissible limits of 250 milligram per litre for drinking water quality. However, at some locations, chloride values have been found higher than the prescribed limits. The chloride is generally contributed to water bodies due to disposal of domestic and industrial effluents. Under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I launched by this Ministry in 1993 in the three states of UP, Haryana and Delhi, various pollution abatement schemes for tackling domestic sewage have been implemented. The mandate of this action plan is to achieve water quality for bathing class. A total of 256 schemes have been completed under this Plan, including setting up of 34 sewage treatment plants for creating additional treatment capacity of 741 million litres per day (mld), of which 402 mld is in UP, 309 mld is in Haryana and 30 mld in Delhi. The industrial pollution on the other hand is tackled through the implementation of legal provisions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Further, as per report of CPCB, no specific industries causing increase in chloride content, have been identified on river Yamuna.

Yamuna Action Plan

3715. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Yamuna Action Plan implementation is far behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details of plan, and its implementation, phase-wise;

(c) the original cost of the plan and the cost escalation incurred thereon, so far, phase-wise;

(d) by what time the plan is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) & (b) No, Sir. The first phase of Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) was launched with the assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in the year 1993 and completed in 2003. Under this Plan, a total of 256 schemes of pollution abatement of the river Yamuna were completed in 15 towns of Delhi,